

Alexandria Gazette.

TUESDAY EVENING, OCT. 13, 1896.

MODERN WARFARE.

A Single Encounter Would Probably Decide the Issue.

Summing up the whole question, as between any two European peace-trained armies of the present day, the extreme percentage of loss to be anticipated locally—i.e., on particular brigades and divisions—will not exceed one to three of which one is killed to four wounded, whereas for whole armies of 100,000 and over one in ten is the very reasonable expectation we may reasonably expect.

Compared to the slaughter of the seven years' war and the best-attested fields of the Napoleonic period, this is very little indeed. At Zorndorf the Russians lost 21,000 out of 52,000 on the ground, and though this is undoubtedly the bloodiest battle recorded since the introduction of portable firearms, Eylau, Friedland, Wagram and Borodino all exceed the figures for any pitched battle since the breech-loader appeared in the field. Moreover, the horror of the whole thing is not to be measured by figures of percentages only, but by the density in which the killed and wounded lie, and the fate of the latter afterward.

In a modern battle 20,000 men would fall on an area of about 40 square miles. At Zorndorf the 21,000 Russians and 12,000 Prussians lay on a single square mile, and of the wounded not one in three survived, whereas, in 1870, nine out of ten recovered, and the Prussian medical staff anticipates even better results next time.

But death on the battlefield is by far the least of the two evils the soldier has to face. There is death on the line of march and in hospitals along the road. Whereas formerly, particularly under Napoleon, ten would die by the way for one who fell in action, in the last Franco-German war only one man died of disease for two killed in action. Indeed, the health of men in the full prime of life was actually slightly better in the field than in quarters.

It may, however, be argued that even granted that battles and marches may be less destructive, there will be more of them, because every able-bodied man being trained for war, the resistance will be more prolonged than formerly, but this prolonged endurance is only conceivable under the supposition that the leaders on both sides are hopelessly incompetent, and both fear to stake all on a single collision, a supposition that nothing tends to justify. On the contrary, every leader brought up in the modern school is taught to understand the vulnerability of all modern military organizations, and is penetrated with the conviction that one downright knock-out blow effects more than weeks of purposeless sparring, and where both start determined to bring matters to a climax the decision cannot long be delayed. Judging from what we know of the relative efficiency of continental armies, we believe that the first round of the great encounter will also be the last, for the momentum of the blow which decides will simply paralyze every nerve of the opponent's body, and adding up all sources of casualties that can occur in a short campaign of this description, we conclude that at the very worst the actual cost in human life to the powers engaged will not amount to more than 5 per cent. of their several populations, or almost identically the same percentage as the influenza epidemic of 1891-2 cost Germany, and rather less than the same epidemic cost us. To suppose that this degree of blood guiltiness would chain the wills of any responsible body of statesmen who believed that they were acting in the interests of their country is surely too Utopian an idea for profitable discussion.—Fall Mail Gazette.

Last summer one of our grandchildren was sick—a severe bowel trouble. Our doctor's medicine had failed, then we tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which gave very speedy relief. We regard it as the best medicine ever put on the market for bowel complaints.—Miss E. G. Gregory, Fredericktown, Mo. This certainly is the best medicine ever put on the market for dysentery, summer complaint, colic and cholera infantum in children. It never fails to give prompt relief when used in reasonable time and the plain printed directions are followed. Many mothers have expressed their sincere gratitude for the cure it has effected. For sale by L. Stabler & Co., Druggists.

"For several months I was troubled with a persistent humor on my head which gave me considerable annoyance, until it occurred to me to try Ayer's Hair Vigor. Before using one bottle, the humor was healed."—T. T. Adams, General Merchant, Turberville, Va.

Tickets will be sold via the Pennsylvania Railroad Saturday and Sunday, October 11th and 12th, and will be valid for return passage until Monday, October 13th. Good on any train.

THE "BEST" NUISER.—The genuine and only practical, convenient and safe air-bottle. A sample "Clinging" Nipple free with each bottle. Price 25c. For sale by E. S. LEADBEATER & SONS.

LEADBEATER'S TALUM POWDER for Infants and Adults. The only beautiful and sanitary powder for the nursery and toilet. Price 10c. For sale by E. S. LEADBEATER & SONS.

ALUMINUM COMBS.—Will neither warp nor tarnish, much superior and more durable than Horn, Ivory, Shell or Rubber, and will not break, for sale by E. S. LEADBEATER & SONS.

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For further particulars see Ayer's Pills.

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| No. 37. | No. 38. | THROUGH SCHEDULE. | No. 39. | No. 40. |
|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Daily. | Daily. | | Daily. | Daily. |
| 10:45pm | 11:15am | Leave Washington | 9:45pm | 6:45am |
| 11:00pm | 11:30am | Arrive Alexandria | 10:00pm | 7:00am |
| 11:15pm | 11:45am | Leave Alexandria | 10:15pm | 7:15am |
| 11:30pm | 12:00pm | Arrive Alexandria | 10:30pm | 7:30am |
| 11:45pm | 12:15pm | Leave Alexandria | 10:45pm | 7:45am |
| 12:00pm | 12:30pm | Arrive Alexandria | 11:00pm | 8:00am |
| 12:15pm | 12:45pm | Leave Alexandria | 11:15pm | 8:15am |
| 12:30pm | 1:00pm | Arrive Alexandria | 11:30pm | 8:30am |
| 12:45pm | 1:15pm | Leave Alexandria | 11:45pm | 8:45am |
| 1:00pm | 1:30pm | Arrive Alexandria | 12:00pm | 9:00am |
| 1:15pm | 1:45pm | Leave Alexandria | 12:15pm | 9:15am |
| 1:30pm | 2:00pm | Arrive Alexandria | 12:30pm | 9:30am |
| 1:45pm | 2:15pm | Leave Alexandria | 12:45pm | 9:45am |
| 2:00pm | 2:30pm | Arrive Alexandria | 1:00pm | 10:00am |
| 2:15pm | 2:45pm | Leave Alexandria | 1:15pm | 10:15am |
| 2:30pm | 3:00pm | Arrive Alexandria | 1:30pm | 10:30am |
| 2:45pm | 3:15pm | Leave Alexandria | 1:45pm | 10:45am |
| 3:00pm | 3:30pm | Arrive Alexandria | 1:55pm | 11:00am |
| 3:15pm | 3:45pm | Leave Alexandria | 2:05pm | 11:15am |
| 3:30pm | 4:00pm | Arrive Alexandria | 2:15pm | 11:30am |
| 3:45pm | 4:15pm | Leave Alexandria | 2:25pm | 11:45am |
| 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Arrive Alexandria | 2:35pm | 12:00pm |
| 4:15pm | 4:45pm | Leave Alexandria | 2:45pm | 12:15pm |
| 4:30pm | 5:00pm | Arrive Alexandria | 2:55pm | 12:30pm |
| 4:45pm | 5:15pm | Leave Alexandria | 3:05pm | 12:45pm |